



Dissertation Seminar 16:910:705:01 (3 credit)

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Course Description: This course is designed to meet the needs of doctoral students who have completed their course work, passed their qualifying exams, and are beginning work on their proposals. The transition from the structured course work phase to the life of an independent scholar will be a focus. Topics related to proposal writing and defense, as well as professional development will be the focus. Accountability to one another will be an additional focus as we work to create a space where intellectual discussion of each participant's process will be a hallmark of the course. Readings are kept to a minimum to allow for discussion, but completing readings are critical to allow fruitful class discussions. Further, attendance is expected as participants support one another through this phase of scholarship and are introduced to topics/speakers regarding aspects of professional development that are relevant at this stage of the scholar's life.

Course Objectives:

- 1- Develop a working Dissertation Committee.
- 2- Maintain momentum in proposal development to promote intellectual stimulation and accountability to work toward proposal defense in the Spring of 2014.
- 3- Develop a scholarly community where participants freely give scholarly critique on aspects of one another's work and support one another's progress toward scholarly goals.
- 4- Present topics that enhance scholarly development from issues of proposal development and defense through thinking about the dissertation and job-finding process.

Recommended Readings are incorporated with the class schedule.

Course Expectations: We will meet approximately every other week, after a late start to accommodate the taking of the Qualifying Exams.

Meetings: Sept 17, 24; Oct. 8, 22; Nov. 5, 19; Dec. 3, 17 at 4:30-6 (4- 5:30?)

Class Schedule:

Sept. 17th- Introductions and Organization: Discussion of Transitions

Complete form re: interests/ plans

Discuss topics of interest

Sept. 24- Developing Your Committee

Noy, S., & Ray, R. (2012). Graduate students' perceptions of their advisors: Is there systematic disadvantage in mentorship?. *Journal of Higher Education*, 83(6), 876-914.
(skim for types of advisors)

Oct. 8- The Discipline of Writing- proposals and other products

Silvia, P (2007). *How to write a lot*. APA/Lifetool books.

Oct. 22- Developing Your Aims/ Research Questions

Becker, H. (1998). *Tricks of the Trade: How to think about your research as you are doing it*.

Introduction and Chapter on Imagery

Presentations for one another

Nov 5-Nuts and Bolts of Proposal Process and admission to candidacy

Donna Albert Visit

Nov 19- Writing the Lit review/ Thinking about Methods

Lyons, P., & Doueck, H. J. (2009). *The dissertation: From beginning to end*. Chapter 3, The literature review, theory, problem statement, and hypotheses. New York: Oxford University Press
Available electronically at <http://libguides.rutgers.edu/swphd>.

Dec 3- Benchmarks and Accountability

Presentations for one another

Dec 17- Party and Accountability: Preparing for the holiday break